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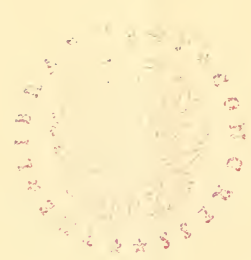


SENATOR FRYE OF MAINE.

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*Jean Paul.*

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## SENATOR FRYE OF MAINE.

He "spake such good thoughts natural."



SENATOR FRYE, of Maine, is the best political orator in America.

His speeches are expressed better, surcharged with more pertinent material, more pleasingly and effectively delivered, more in popular demand, than those of any other stump speaker.

Maine has the happy knack of keeping to the fore-front of the nation, men of the brightest intellect. The name of Thomas B. Reed springs into mind, and we think of Hale, of Boutelle, of many others, but Senator Frye follows more closely than anybody else in the footsteps of the illustrious James G. Blaine.

Many years ago the Republicans of New Hampshire sent a committee to Mr. Blaine, urging him to

speaking in the state. This he could not then do, but he promised to send a good man.

He sent Hon. William P. Frye.

The Republicans of the state have been earnestly sending for Mr. Frye ever since, and he has been here many times, and the Republican party of New Hampshire is under very great obligation to him.

He spoke first, I think, at Portsmouth, and was a revelation to the people there, but has since addressed overflowing audiences in all of the larger and many of the smaller places in the state.

Mr. Frye's preëminent celebrity as a public political debater does not differ here from what it is everywhere throughout New England, and indeed throughout the whole North, for he has spoken repeatedly in almost every northern state in the Union, and in nearly all of the large towns and cities.

When Blaine resigned the chairmanship of the Republican state committee of Maine, in 1881, Frye was elected to fill the vacancy. He followed Blaine to congress, and when Blaine was made secretary of state, Frye was chosen for his place in the national senate, taking the seat March 18, 1881. He was re-elected in 1883, and again in 1888. His present term of service will expire March 3, next.

His re-election is unanimously conceded.





SENATOR WM. P. FRYE.

The custom of re-electing senators prevails now to such an extent throughout the several states, that the exceptions are few. In confirmation of this statement, examine the following list of prominent senators who have been rewarded with re-election and advanced beyond their first term of service in the senate :

Aldrich, Nelson Wilmarth, Rhode Island . . . . .	3d term.
Allison, William B., Iowa . . . . .	4th "
Blackburn, Joseph C. S., Kentucky . . . . .	2d "
Morgan, John T., Alabama . . . . .	3d "
Pugh, James L., Alabama . . . . .	3d "
Jones, James K., Arkansas . . . . .	2d "
Berry, James H., Arkansas . . . . .	2d "
Teller, Henry M., Colorado . . . . .	3d "
Hawley, Joseph R., Connecticut . . . . .	3d "
Platt, Orville H., Connecticut . . . . .	3d "
Gray, George, Delaware . . . . .	3d "
Call, Wilkinson, Florida . . . . .	3d "
Colquitt, Alfred Holt, Georgia . . . . .	2d "
Cullom, Shelby M., Illinois . . . . .	2d "
Voorhees, Daniel Wolsey, Indiana . . . . .	3d "
Turpie, David, Indiana . . . . .	2d "
Wilson, James F., Iowa . . . . .	2d "
Hale, Eugene, Maine . . . . .	3d "
Frye, William P., Maine . . . . .	3d "
Gorman, Arthur P., Maryland . . . . .	3d "
Hoar, George F., Massachusetts . . . . .	3d "
Davis, Cushman Kellogg, Minnesota . . . . .	2d "
George, James Z., Mississippi . . . . .	3d "
Cockrell, Francis Marion, Missouri . . . . .	3d "

Vest, George Graham, Missouri . . . . .	3d term.
Manderson, Charles F., Nebraska . . . . .	2d "
Stewart, William Morris, Nevada . . . . .	2d "
Jones, John P., Nevada . . . . .	4th "
McPherson, John R., New Jersey . . . . .	3d "
Ransom, Matt W., North Carolina . . . . .	4th "
Sherman, John, Ohio . . . . .	3d "
Mitchell, John H., Oregon . . . . .	2d "
Dolph, Joseph N., Oregon . . . . .	2d "
Cameron, James Donald, Pennsylvania . . . . .	3d "
Quay, Matthew Stanley, Pennsylvania . . . . .	2d "
Butler, Matthew Calbraith, South Carolina . . . . .	3d "
Harris, Isham G., Tennessee . . . . .	3d "
Bate, William B., Tennessee . . . . .	2d "
Coke, Richard, Texas . . . . .	3d "
Morrill, Justin Smith, Vermont . . . . .	5th "
Daniel, John Warwick, Virginia . . . . .	2d "
Squire, Watson C., Washington . . . . .	2d "
Faulkner, Charles James, West Virginia . . . . .	2d "

Senator Frye and our own Senator Chandler are very favorably suggestive each of the other. These two radical Republican leaders are in many ways alike; their characteristics and tastes are largely the same, their companionship at Washington very close, their public duties and interests there identical, their personal friendship long and warm.

In the presidential campaign of 1868, when Senator Chandler was secretary of the National Republican committee, he first met Mr. Frye, and ever since then they have been intimate friends.

Frye was a young lawyer, with some political ambition. He began making political speeches, growing in power and popularity, and soon became one of the recognized national speakers, now the best known stump speaker in the United States.

The best public speaking is the highest exercise of human functions. It is the most exacting of all the demands upon the intellect, and brings into quick requisition the greatest number of faculties, physical and mental. Oratory is the gift of nature, and yet a power to be acquired, developed, perfected,—acquired by hard study, developed by frequent practice, perfected by the confluence of the arts and sciences. There may have been, and there may be now, a few choice minds that radiate great thoughts—fertile, intuitive, and sensitive mirrors of brilliant ideas, inexplicable geniuses, baffling analysis,—but Senator Frye does not belong to that ethereal class. His eloquence is graceful,—there is a rhythm, a cadence, and a magnetism to it,—but it is of the practical, sensible, logical, common-sense kind. It interests, it holds, it moves, it pleases, it convinces. His heart is full of feeling, and swells into gracious expression. He thinks deeply, strongly, correctly, and then speaks frankly, fearlessly, honestly, and forcibly, having full faith in what he says: and the effect is magical.



SENATOR FRYE'S CAMP AT INDIAN ROCK.

“This man,” observes Mirabeau, “will do something: he believes every word he says.”

Senator Frye's style is generally colloquial, not grandiloquent, but yet it has that all-potent element, that mysterious and intangible something or another, which is not a physical gift, nor the result of intellectual culture, but which charms the ears of his auditors and takes the public mind by storm. His arguments are substantial, his reasons cogent, his theories plausible, his illustrations apt, his resources not those of the dramatist, or the formal rhetorician, but drawn from deep wells of actual personal experience and practical observation in the every-day affairs of real life, as well as from the exhaustless reservoirs of classic and general reading. When he rises to speak he may not know in just what exact form of language he is about to express himself, but he is sure of certain ideas, great underlying principles of government, of political economy, of Republicanism, — fundamental truths thoroughly thought out, safe springs of action on which he may depend for the inspiration of the moment.

George William Curtis said of Wendell Phillips, “The secret of the rose's sweetness, the bird's ecstasy, or the sunset's glory,—that is the secret of genius and eloquence.”

When you see a great orator you behold a great

man. The qualities of great oratory are such that it cannot have origin in shallowness, nor be founded in meanness and insincerity. The true orator must have been a hard student. He, first of all, must have a thorough acquaintance with human nature. He must perfectly understand his materials, the subject he is to handle, his models, the history of his race, and most of all he must understand himself. Orators like Frye are not the result of accident.

Macaulay says—I think in his life of the elder Pitt—that nearly all forceful and eloquent speakers, in parliament, have become such by practising upon their audiences, and that almost any man of fair parts can become fluent by beginning early and practising sufficiently. I do not think that Senator Frye attained his present proficiency by practising upon any audiences who were not attracted and delighted by his words, but undoubtedly to his unremitting practice he owes much of the fluency and fascination of his splendid speeches. In recent years, stump speaking being no longer a novelty to him, he has endeavored to lessen his efforts in that direction, but the popular demand for him as a speaker is so great and so widespread that it is difficult for him to resist.

Different ages produce different styles of oratory. The emphases and cadences of eloquence vary from

epoch to epoch. The construction and delivery of public addresses in times of peace do not admit of the impassioned efforts that might become great crises, but patriotic hearts like that of Senator Frye would rouse grandly in defence of human life and liberty. Carlyle may have declared that England and America are going to nothing but wind and tongue, that silence is the eternal duty of man, but language in its clearest, purest, most effective exercise can never become a lost art. There may no longer be a Mirabeau in the national assembly; the rhetoric of legislative bodies may not be as florid as that of Sheridan; occasion may not soon evolve another Patrick Henry; such exemplar lights as Clay and Webster, as Chatham, Fox, and Pitt, as Burke, Brougham, and Bright, as Everett and Sumner, may have touched the horizon; but bright, new schools are already meeting the demands of our day, fitting the needs and desires of advancing civilization. It is not the age of iron, nor of wood, but the golden age of sensible speech in which we live. The grace is none the less, the triumph the higher one of reason, truth, and justice.

Victor Hugo has declared that mankind is no longer owned, but guided. History the picture has become history the mirror, and the new reflection of the past will modify the future, giving us a new



aspect of facts. Nothing can escape the law of simplification.

Simplification and suggestiveness are great merits in the speeches of Mr. Frye, and yet he possesses that "intangible influence, invisible efflux of personal power which radiates from the orator's nature like heat from iron."

When delivered they are masterpieces for preservation, and yet he never, with hardly an exception, prepares a speech by writing it out in advance. His masterly effort at Boston, in May, 1893, a beautiful tribute to the memory of his friend, James G. Blaine, was one of the exceptions. I have heard him say that his ideas do not seem to move quickly until he begins to move his arms in gesticulation, then his thoughts flow rapidly, and are absolutely clear and distinct in their utterance. As a result of his long practice, he remembers figures, amounts, quantities, and distances with great accuracy, and recalls names and incidents with certainty. He is only seldom in error as to a fact. Thus clear and definite and specific, he is blessed with a vivid imagination, which comes into play when he speaks, and he ornaments and illustrates his discourses with occasional high flights of unalloyed eloquence.

His speeches in both houses of congress, and his incidental non-political addresses, all have the same

commendable characteristics. He has stamped upon his strongly-marked features the impress of superior intellectuality and of a remarkable command of language, indicated by a massive brow and prominent nose.

He is direct, pronounced, and enthusiastic, as much so in the senate as anywhere else, but perhaps not quite so vehement. He is always listened to, whether making a short or a long speech, intently listened to by every one within the sound of his magnificent voice.

Mr. Frye in private life is a man of scrupulous integrity and honor. He is religious in his tendencies,—I think a Congregationalist, or a Presbyterian,—a strictly temperate man, making temperance speeches now and then. He is very devoted in his friendships, entirely taken up with his family life and his duties as a senator, and I might say as a public orator for his party.

He is a good story-teller, and loves fun. He is fond of sports, especially is he an expert trout and salmon fisherman, and from fishing gets his principal recreation, going every summer to his comfortable log camp, on a little island in the Rangeley lakes, opposite Indian Rock.

He is a man of pleasing personality, fine physique, of moderate fortune, acquired mostly by dili-



SENATORS FRYE AND CHANDLER AT RANGELEY LAKES.

gent service in the law, before he entered congress. He was graduated from Bowdoin college when 19 years of age; when 28 he was chosen attorney-general of his state; and when 39 he was elected to the lower house of congress, where he immediately took front rank as a debater. As a lawyer he was noted for the rapidity with which he was able to absorb the facts of a case, and the promptness with which he met every new phase of its development. In the examination of witnesses he especially excelled. The supreme court-room of Androscoggin county was the arena of many a famous trial, and, as is usual in New England shire towns, these frequently called out great numbers of eager listeners. This was emphatically true of those cases in which Mr. Frye was of counsel. Some of the prosecutions which he was called upon to conduct as prosecuting officer were for capital offences, celebrated in the annals of the criminal cases of Maine. He is well-grounded in the knowledge of the law, and was a very successful jury advocate, having undoubtedly the same success with juries as he has upon the stump, in carrying with him the sympathy of his auditors.

He has no ambition in politics, beyond another term in the senate, to which, as has been stated, he will be elected without opposition in his state, as no man has more devoted friends, who give

him their support without money and without price.

Mr. Frye excelled especially in the discussion of the slavery question, and he has always been a leader in the consideration of all measures pertaining to the welfare of the colored race. The War of the Rebellion, and the obligation of the nation to the soldiers of the Union, have enlisted his valuable attention, and he has energetically denounced frauds in election, as illustrated by Democratic crimes against the suffrage.

Our important foreign relations, the protective tariff and its relations to the welfare of the plain people of the United States,—especially the wage-earners,—have been problems of great concern with him; and the great commercial questions, particularly the restoration of the merchant marine.

He is perhaps at his very best when discussing the relation of the tariff to labor, or rather the condition of the American workingman as affected by the high wages resulting from the tariff.

It has been said of him, that at every political meeting which he has ever addressed there have been some known conversions, resulting from his speech, from the opposite political party to his own.

Mr. Frye is a public man of the highest order, because, first, he is absolutely conscientious; second, he devotes himself to large questions; third, he has

great intellectual attainments as well as a great faculty of speech. These three traits contribute to make him a statesman.

He has held local offices; was elected and re-elected mayor of Lewiston, in 1866 and 1867; in 1864 he served as a presidential elector; in 1861, 1862, and 1867, he was chosen a representative of his city in the state legislature; he was elected a member of the National Republican executive committee, in 1872; was re-elected in 1876, and again in 1880. He was a delegate to the National Republican convention in 1872, 1876, and 1880; he was made trustee of Bowdoin college in June, 1880, and received the degree of LL. D. from Bates college, in 1881, and the same degree from Bowdoin college in 1889.

In the lower house of congress he was chairman of the library committee, served for several terms on the judiciary, and was a member of the committee on ways and means. He was a prominent advocate of the act admitting parties to testify. In the distribution of the Geneva award he espoused the cause of the actual losers, conducted that fight in the house through four congresses, and in the senate through one, until the bill introduced by him originally in the house became a law, and the entire fund was distributed according to its terms. He served on several special committees, and was a

most influential and absolutely upright member.

In the senate he was for several years chairman of the committee on commerce, one of the largest and most important in that body; a member of the committee on foreign relations, and on privileges and elections, and also chairman of a special committee on Pacific railroads.

He is now a member of the committee on commerce and foreign relations, and on Revolutionary claims. He took a leading part in the abrogation of the fishery articles, in the treaty with Great Britain, and in all matters touching our fishery relations with Canada. It was largely through his efforts that the attention of the country was called to the condition of affairs in Samoa, and a settlement effected of the complications there. He presented a bill providing for the congress of American nations, and took charge of it until it became law, as he did also of the bill providing for the maritime congress, and of all legislation resulting therefrom.

His postal subsidy and tonnage bills received a generous share of his attention for several years. The enactment of the former into law, and the passage of the latter through the senate in the Fifty-first congress were largely due to his efforts. His zealous championship of these measures is warmly appreciated by all who are interested in the welfare

of American shipping. He has taken charge in the senate of all matters relating to the general commerce, including river and harbor bills, and everything pertaining to shipping. The senate in all these matters has given him its entire confidence, and seldom fails to give its sanction to any measure reported and urged by him. His continuance in that body has given him great prestige and power. He has been a leader in the shaping and enactment of laws along various and important lines, and, indeed, it may be safely asserted that he has been closely identified with most of the important legislation of congress for the past twenty years.

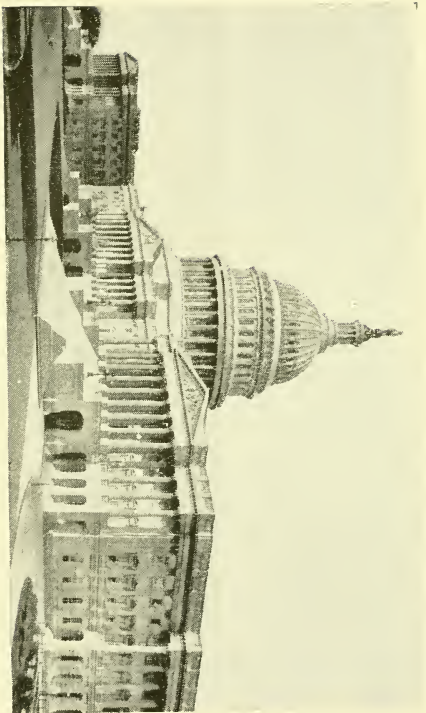
When Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, in his memorable speech of nomination, presented the name of James G. Blaine for the presidency, it was Mr. Frye, who, in an able and glowing tribute, seconded the nomination.

It is safely said that he will hold a place in the scroll of history, and in the niche of national fame, equal to the famous men of New England in whose footsteps he has so prominently and ably followed. In my opinion his illustrious name will go down to posterity along with those of Webster, Clay, Calhoun, Crittenden, McDuffie, Preston, Douglas, in the senate, and of John Quincy Adams, Cushing, Hoffman, Evans, and Marshall in the house.







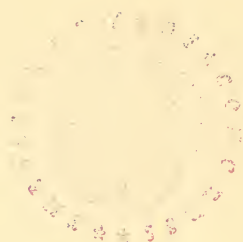


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